

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA-LA/BR:RJBALLANTYNE:CJB

APPROVED BY ARA - BR:RWZIMMERMANN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ALOW:BR

SUBJECT: HOST COUNTRY CONTRACTORS

REFS: BRASILIA 2050 AND BRASILIA 1659

1. WOODS THOMAS, DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS IN AGRICULTURE OF PURDUE UNIVERSITY, CALLED ON HERMAN KLEINE APRIL 5 TO UPDATE AID/W REGARDING UNIVERSITIES' VIEWS ON STATUS OF HOST COUNTRY CONTRACTORS (PURDUE AND WISCONSIN) OPERATING IN BRAZIL UNDER AID LOAN AND EMBRAPA AUSPICES. ACCORDING TO THOMAS, THE SITUATION IN BRAZIL CONTINUED UNSATISFACTORY, THE CONTRACTORS WERE COMPLAINING, THERE APPEARED TO BE NO MOVEMENT TOWARD RESOLUTION OF THEIR PROBLEMS, MORALE WAS ADVERSELY AFFECTED, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF AN APPEAL TO THE U.S. CONGRESS ON THE PART OF THE INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTORS WAS A VERY REAL ONE.

2. IN RESPONSE, BALLANTYNE, WHO WAS PRESENT AT MEETING, OBSERVED THAT OUR LATEST CONTACT WITH USAID BRAZIL ON THIS SUBJECT INDICATED THAT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE, AND SUCH PROBLEMS AS THE MICHIGAN STATE GROUP WAS FACING, REPORTEDLY, HAD BEEN WORKED OUT. WE HAD ASKED FOR AN UPDATING OF THE PURDUE AND WISCONSIN GROUP'S STATUS, AND
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WERE AWAITING A CONVERSATION BETWEEN OUR ACTING MISSION

DIRECTOR AND THE RECENTLY RETURNED CHIEF OF PARTY AS TO
WHERE MATTERS STOOD.

3. THOMAS NOTED THAT HE HAD TALKED TO HIS CHIEF OF PARTY SINCE LATTER'S RETURN AND THE PROBLEMS CONTINUED. THE UNIVERSITIES WERE PARTICULARLY UNHAPPY IN THAT TAXPAYERS' MONEY WAS INVOLVED, THEIR TECHNICIANS WERE OPERATING UNDER A U.S. GOVERNMENT LOAN, AND THE CONDITIONS SET OUT IN THE LOAN HAD BEEN UNILATERALLY ABROGATED BY THE BRAZILIANS ON THE ONE HAND AND ON THE OTHER, SUPPORT WHICH HAD BEEN GRANTED BY THE EMBASSY, HAD BEEN WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE REMOVED. THE UNIVERSITIES FELT THE EMBASSY COULD HAVE BEEN MORE SUPPORTIVE OF THE CONTRACTORS IN THE DEALINGS WITH THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN OFFICE.

4. WE EXPLAINED GOB HAD TAKEN POSITION WHICH RULED EMBASSY OUT OF PICTURE RE BRAZILIAN PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES, WHILE DOD HAD WITHDRAWN APO, PX ACCESS.

5. THOMAS UNDERSTOOD THE AMBASSADOR WOULD BE COMING TO WASHINGTON SOMETIME LATER THIS MONTH AND ASKED THAT HE AND HIS WISCONSIN COUNTERPART BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM BRIEFLY WITH THE AMBASSADOR DURING HIS VISIT. WE NOTED THAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS GOING TO BE IN WASHINGTON A VERY BRIEF TIME, HAD A BUSY SCHEDULE, BUT AGREED TO PASS ON THE UNIVERSITIES REPRESENTATIVES' INTEREST IN MEETING WITH HIM.

6. FOR GELABERT: WOULD APPRECIATE RESULTS OF CONVERSATION WITH CHIEF OF PARTY AND CURRENT STATUS THIS SUBJECT.

7. FOR AMBASSADOR: PURDUE AND WISCONSIN COULD BE HELPFUL IN POST-AID PERIOD AND WHILE WE HAVE REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED EMBASSY LIMITATIONS IN THE AREA OF CONTRACTOR SUPPORT, IT MIGHT BE ADVISABLE MEET WITH THOMAS AND WISCONSIN REP (MURDOCK) BRIEFLY DURING YOUR CONSULTATION. PLEASE ADVISE.
KISSINGER

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